OEA/OSA Updates...

New School Year, New Assessments

Welcome back to the new school year. The Office of Student Assessment (OSA) understands many new challenges will be coming your way including all of the assessment changes. OSA is putting together several new resources to help your district and you be ready for these assessments including regular video updates as well as new methods to access trainings. I'll start this Fall off with regular short video clips called "Tea with Troy" to highlight critical information you will need. These video clips will take place a couple of times a month. In addition to the video clips, OSA plans to offer monthly webinars answering questions from the field and sharing more detailed information regarding the assessments which are on the horizon. Watch for more information in the coming weeks. OSA knows you face challenges in working through the new demands on your time and hope we can support you in making these adjustments. Thank you for being such important members of the education community!

Troy Couillard
Director, Office of Student Assessment

2014 WKCE and WAA-SwD Testing Window

The Fall 2014 testing window for the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE) and the Wisconsin Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities (WAA-SwD) is October 27-November 7. The window has been shortened to two weeks due to testing only three grades (4, 8, and 10) and two content areas (Science and Social Studies). Districts should adjust test schedules accordingly. Testing may only begin on or after October 27, 2014.

DPI recommends that schools try to complete the majority of testing within the first week of the window, leaving the remaining week for make-up sessions and students moving into the district. All testing must be completed by the end of the day on November 7.

A list of Wisconsin assessment windows for the 2014-15 school year is available at http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/assessment.
*A Detailed checklist of dates for Aspire is available at http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/assessment/ACT/calendar.

OEA/OSA Calendar...

Important Dates

Fall 2014	
September 1-30	Participating NAEP Schools Receive 2015 Informational Packets
September 5	District and Schools Have Student Data Files Uploaded to Portal for *Aspire (CBT and PP)
September 12	Deadline to Order Braille and Large Print Versions of WKCE and WAA-SwD
September 15-19	*Aspire Online Readiness Testing Window (CBT)
September 15-October 10	PALS Fall Assessment Window for Grades 1 and 2
September 18	Personal Needs Profile Accommodations confirmed in Portal for *Aspire (CBT)
September 24	WKCE/WAA-SwD Pre-Test Workshop Webcast Available Online
September 29	Districts Update Enrollment Information in the WSLS for pre-ID Label Production
October 1	Deadline for Districts to upload Student Enrollment for DLM
October 1-10	DLM Data Validation and Revision Window #1 Preparation for Field/operational Testing
October 1-22	Districts Order ACCESS for ELLs® Testing Materials
October 6-10	WKCE/WAA-SwD Test Materials Arrive in Districts
October 6-24	*ACT Aspire Testing Window (Grade 9, English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, & Writing) (CBT and PP)
October 13-November 7	PALS Fall Assessment Window for 4K and Kindergarten
October 13-17	DACs Distribute Test Materials to SACs
October 13-31	Grade 9 Participation in DLM Field Test A and Teacher Rater Form (required)
October 15	NAEP Schools Provide/Update School Information on MyNAEP
October 17	DACs Receive First Shipment of Pre-ID Labels
October 20-24	DACs and SACs Complete Inventory of Testing Materials and DACs Report Shortages to CTB/McGraw-Hill
October 27-November 7	**WKCE/WAA-SwD Testing Window** (Grades 4, 8, and 10, Science and Social Studies)
October 31	Participating NAEP Schools' Deadline for Submitting "e-file" Student List
November 10- December 19	DLM Field Test B Window
November 20	Districts Receive ACCESS for ELLs® Testing Materials

CBT=Computer Based Testing Format
PP=Paper/Pencil Testing Format

Important Reminder

DPI would like to stress the importance of ensuring each student is working in their own WKCE test book. Please have proctors and students check the label on the front of the test book prior to beginning each new testing session. Be particularly attentive of students with the same names (i.e., twins/siblings) to be sure each student has the correct book.

Smarter Update

The Achievement Level Setting Process is underway at Smarter Balanced. Achievement Level Setting is the process for establishing cut scores on an assessment, making it possible to create categories of performance. During this process, participants review test questions and recommend achievement level scores that establish challenging and fair expectations for students. Smarter Balanced is inviting educators and other stakeholders nationwide to participate in the Online Panel for Achievement Level Setting, to provide feedback on the new assessments. The online panel results will provide critical information to Smarter Balanced member states, with capacity for thousands of teachers, higher education faculty, parents, and others as they establish achievement levels for the new assessments.

HELP WANTED

Educators, Community Members, and Parents Needed For the Smarter Balanced Assessment Achievement Level Setting Online Panel

Wisconsin is currently recruiting approximately 700 educators for the achievement level setting online panel. Panelists will choose a 2-day window between October 6 and 17, 2014, for participation. Registration must be received by September 19, 2014. To register for this opportunity go to http://smarterbalanced.measinc.com/EventCode/100614.

For more information on Achievement Level Setting, please visit the Smarter website and download the Facts & FAQ document available at http://www.smarterbalanced.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Online-Panel-for-Achievement-Level-Setting-FAQ.pdf.

Digital Formative Library

The Digital Library of formative assessment instructional and professional learning resources is an essential component of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System. The Digital Library complements the interim and summative assessments by providing resources that teachers can use throughout the year in their classrooms.

The preview period for the Digital Library is available for K-12 educators in all Smarter Balanced member states through September 30. The Digital Library is an online collection of professional development and instructional resources aligned to the Common Core that support educators in their use of formative assessment strategies. There will be a process for educators to continue to add resources to the library.

Teachers interested in previewing the Digital Library should contact Jayson Chung at the Office of Student Assessment, Jayson.Chung@dpi.wi.gov, as OSA is working directly with districts to create accounts for teachers.

Reminder to Update WSLS Data

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) creates student demographic pre-ID labels for WKCE/WAA-SwD test booklets. The labels are created using the Wisconsin Student Number Locator System (WSLS) and the Individual Student Enrollment System (ISES) databases and will be shipped to districts before the Fall 2014 test window. To make this process as easy as possible during the busy testing window, please do the following:

1. Update ALL WSLS records and ISES "Grade Level Placement" fields before 8:00 AM on September 29, 2014.

2. Update all WSLS records again before 8:00 AM on October 29, 2014 (3rd Friday of September, Child Count, and Year End Submission Period Ends).

3. Verify and lock all ISES records before 8:00 AM on November 26, 2014 (Review and Revision Period Ends).

WAA-SwD

The WAA-SwD will be administered to students in grades 4, 8, and 10 in the content area of Science as well as through the teacher rater form in Social Studies.

The Office of Student Assessment (OSA) has developed an online ordering system for the WAA-SwD test materials. District assessment coordinators (DACs) were sent an email from 'DPI Forms Management' with a link to the online ordering form on August 27, 2014. This form allows the DAC to identify the final number of WAA-SwD test books, including WAA-SwD picture description and WAA-SwD Braille books, required for the Fall 2014 test administration. Districts with no students taking the WAA-SwD should still open the order form and enter 'zero.' This process will provide districts with a more accurate initial shipment of test materials, reducing the need for additional orders. The deadline for this electronic order is September 12, 2014, and will be used for packing and shipping the WAA-SwD test materials. After September 12, all additional orders will need to be placed through DPI at 608-267-1072 and will arrive as a separate shipment from your other test materials. DACs should work with the Special Education Director in their district to identify an accurate count of students expected to take the WAA-SwD in grades 4, 8, and 10.

Please note that the test book order form cannot be forwarded to others for completion. It must be completed by the DAC.

Reminders:
- Participation in the WAA-SwD is an Individualized Education Program (IEP) team decision using the form I-7-A: Participation Guidelines for Alternate Assessment available at http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped_forms06. Students whose instruction is based on the Extended Grade Band Standards should be taking the WAA-SwD, with or without accommodations. Students whose instruction is based on the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards should be taking the WKCE, with or without accommodations.
- Test administrators for the WAA-SwD need to be trained, licensed professionals. Test administrators should review the PowerPoint presentation and materials posted at http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/assessment/WAA/trainings prior to the test window.

- Teachers should complete the Social Studies rater form. This form will be included in the WAA-SwD materials sent to each district. These forms can also be found at http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/oea_waatrn. Student performance levels must be reported on the back of the WAA-SwD Answer Document.

Remember to Update your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Information

Every District should complete the annual update to DAC contact information. Those who have not yet completed the 2014-15 update, please do so and return the DAC Update form to the Office of Student Assessment no later than September 12, 2014, even if the designated DAC remains the same.

Every DAC is also required to complete the WKCE/WAA-SwD District Assessment Coordinator Confidentiality Agreement for the 2014-15 test administration prior to test materials arriving in the district. Be sure to submit the DAC Confidentiality form by September 30, 2014.

Forms are available at http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/assessment/forms.

New District Assessment Coordinators

Each year, many Wisconsin districts designate a new district assessment coordinator (DAC) who serves as the central point of contact and the coordinator for statewide testing in their district. If you have been designated as the new DAC for your district, there are a few things you should do to assist you in your new role:

- ✓ Complete the "DAC Update Form" located at http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/assessment/dacupdate. This form provides us with your email address to ensure that you receive timely information related to assessment and accountability.
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with the Assessment and Accountability website located at http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/.
- ✓ View the New DAC Webinar available soon on the Information for New DACs webpage at http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/assessment/dacnew.

DPI Assessment and Accountability Webpage Update

In August the DPI Assessment and Accountability webpage, http://oea.dpi.wi.gov, was redesigned to make the site more user-friendly and easy to navigate with the many new assessments that begin this year. Along with the new look, all of the assessment and accountability pages have new URLs. Any bookmarks to specific pages will need to be re-saved to the new URL. The new URLs are simpler and more intuitive.

Commercial Products and Workshops Promoting Test Prep

DPI does not endorse commercial testing companies, their products, or workshops. It is recommended that schools limit the amount of instructional time spent on specific test preparation activities; instead, time is better spent on solid instructional activities that prepare students to demonstrate proficiency on grade level expectations.

Please note that the use of test question(s) from **any** previous years' WKCE test administrations is a serious test security violation. Consequences of violations may include invalidation of student test results and could result in civil legal liability for copyright violations. The test questions from previous WKCE tests are considered live items and may be included on the current year's test. Please refer to the test security trainings available on the DPI website http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/assessment/WKCE/security.

Please ensure that your district administrator and the building principals are aware of this information.

Delivery of Testing Materials

The WKCE and WAA-SwD testing materials will be delivered October 6-10, 2014, in separate shipments. Boxes containing WAA-SwD materials will be differentiated by a three-inch blue dot on the outside of the package. The district assessment coordinator (DAC) is responsible for sorting and distributing all test materials to schools as soon as possible. The DAC must inventory all materials and report any WKCE shortages to CTB/McGraw-Hill, and WAA-SwD shortages to DPI. More information about ordering additional materials is included within the original shipment.

ACT High School Assessments Update

The ACT Assessments require teamwork. The successful adoption of the ACT assessments brings with it new challenges and new opportunities for schools and districts to collaborate to accomplish a common goal. Each high school should be identifying a key person at their school who will assume the role of ACT Test Coordinator. This person will be the primary contact for ACT communications from ACT and ACT Aspire and will be responsible for coordinating ACT related activities within their building. It will be necessary for the high school ACT Test Coordinator to be in close communication with a number of individuals within their district including the district assessment coordinator (DAC) and High School Principal as well as others whose specific areas of expertise will be needed at varying times to accomplish specific tasks. These may include Special Education Directors, special education case managers and teachers, ELL staff, technology coordinators, and others depending on the specific culture of your school. OSA is working hard to include all pertinent staff in their communications around the ACT assessments and encourages schools to adopt a similar practice of collaboration and inclusiveness with staff within their individual settings. Please consider joining the ACT Wisconsin listserv if you haven't already and suggesting this important avenue of communication to your colleagues. Information about joining the listserv can be found at http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/assessment/ACT.

Regarding the recent confusion around the previous Aspire Checklist of Dates for the Fall 2014 administration, specifically around which Personal Needs Profiles (PNPs) are required by September 5th, only PNPs for students who require accommodations through Braille, Large Print, or American Sign Language and will be taking Aspire through a paper and pencil format, need to be completed by September 5th. All

ACT Update (Continued from page 4)

other PNPs are due by September 18th. The Revised Fall 2014 Aspire Checklists of Dates is available at http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/assessment/ACT/calendar.

DACs should have received an invitation to join the ACT Aspire portal where they will help manage a school's administrative tasks. Please accept these invitations and invite others into the portal by following the instructions on the Avocet site: Accepting Portal Invites and Inviting New Users to the ACT Aspire Portal. For assistance with this process please contact ACT Aspire Customer Service at 888-802-7502.

Schools are invited to register for access to the ACT Aspire Infrastructure Trial portal. An Infrastructure Trial Tenant is a separate area within the ACT Aspire Portal that works as a sandbox environment. This Trial environment is separate from the live production area that schools will use to complete their test administration tasks. Signing up for this sandbox area provides you with the opportunity to test your local infrastructure, work with simulated student data, set-up practice test sessions, and print authorization tickets, etc. Complete the request form, available at https://docs.google.com/a/dpi.wi.gov/forms/d/1o3N_M0HFzRiVO0xncMAyCwYwAvaepDhk3a59wZwei5E/viewform?c=0&w=1&usp=mail_form_link, and ACT Aspire will process your request within 5-7 business days and you will be invited to join the Infrastructure Trial Tenant. Please watch for an email invitation sent from admin@actaspire.org. The Trial area provides the opportunity, prior to live testing, to perform a walk-through in a simulated live testing environment.

The ACT Summary of Requirements document, which contains information about the requirements a school will need to implement to become a certified site for ACT state testing, is now available at https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B0losB8w4PHDaEdaYkdnWkVmN1U/edit?usp=sharing&pli=1. It will also be posted to the ACT Wisconsin and DPI ACT websites in the next few days. It lists the Test Coordinator requirements, roles and responsibilities, facility requirements, and test day requirements.

- The ACT Wisconsin newsletters are now being archived on the DPI ACT Webpage at http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/assessment/ACT/newsletter.

- Other useful Aspire checklists available at http://actaspire.avocet.pearson.com/actaspire/home include:
  - o Room Supervisor Checklist Online Testing
  - o Room Supervisor Checklist Paper and Pencil Testing
  - o Technology Coordinator Checklist
  - o Test Coordinator Checklist

Dynamic Learning Maps

The Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Assessment will be administered to students in grades 3-11 in English Language Arts and Mathematics. DLM will be used as the alternate assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities whose IEP team has determined, through the use of the form I-7-A Participation Guidelines for Alternate Assessment (http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped_forms06), that the student is unable to participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment, ACT Aspire™ Early High School Assessment, or ACT® Plus Writing/WorkKeys assessments, even with accommodations.

- DLM is in the process of revising manuals and resources for the 2014-15 school year. They will be posted at http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/wisconsin and http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/assessment/DLM once completed.
- DLM will be hosting a series of webinars for District Assessment Coordinators, Data Stewards, and Technical Liaisons. Please visit http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/assessment/DLM/trainings for dates and registration information.
- Required-Students in 9th grade are expected to participate in the DLM field test administered October 13-31. Educators are also expected to complete a rater form for their 9th grade students to be entered through the DLM system (KITE).
- Required-Test Administrator Training is available though the DLM Educator Portal and must be completed prior to administering the assessment. There are seven required modules, each with a video/audio presentation, and a quiz. Those modules are self-administered and are anticipated to last approximately 30 minutes each. Educators must have an active Educator Portal account in order to access the webpage at https://educator.cete.us/AART/logIn.htm.

Accommodations Update

The assessment accommodation policies are available for the 2014-15 school year at http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/assessment/accommodations. Please be aware that each assessment has its own unique accommodation/accessibility policies. All assessment accommodations for students with disabilities, students on 504 plans, and English language learners (ELL) should be documented and consistent with day-to-day instruction.

The Office of Student Assessment worked closely with the Special Education team to develop a suite of special education forms to guide IEP team discussion and document requirements related to the new assessment system. These forms address the unique policies and language of each assessment. All sample forms for the new assessment system are complete and listed below:

- I-7-A, Participation Guidelines for Alternate Assessment (revised March 2014)
- I-7-ACCESS for ELLs®/Alternate ACCESS for ELLs®, Participation in Statewide Language Assessment Checklist and Accommodations (new March 2014)
- I-7-ACT Plus Writing®/ACT WorkKeys® (June 2014)
- I-7-District-Wide Assessment (new March 2014)
- I-7-DLM (new July 2014)
- I-7-SBA (new March 2014)
- I-7-WAA-SwD (new March 2014)
- I-7-WKCE (new March 2014)

IEP teams should familiarize themselves with these new policies and use the revised sample IEP special education forms found at http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped_forms06 to document their students needs. If a student is required to participate in an assessment and the IEP team has not completed the revised I-7 form, they do not necessarily need to reconvene the IEP team. The LEA and parents may agree to accessibility features and supports for the assessment and document this via the I-7, I-10-A (Changes to an IEP), and I-10-B (Notice of Changes to IEP Without an IEP Team Meeting).

If you have questions about the assessment system, please call the Office of Student Assessment at 608-267-1072. If you have questions about the forms, please contact Courtney Reed Jenkins, Consultant, Special Education team, at 608-267-9183 or courtney.jenkins@dpi.wi.gov.

English Language Learners (ELLs) Content Assessments Update

Students identified as ELL may be eligible to access accommodations (linguistic supports) for statewide content assessments. The available supports or accommodations will vary by assessment. District personnel should plan accordingly and carefully review the allowable test practices for each assessment, found on their affiliated web pages. Any accommodations assigned for an ELL student should align with that student's specific needs and instructional program, and be tracked for both reporting and program-related decision-making purposes.

ACCESS for ELLs® Update

A new *ACCESS for ELLs® Pre-Administration Manual* is now available at http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/assessment/ELL/resources. This document has been developed to help DACs and their designees navigate the protocols and procedures for administering the annual ELP assessment.

This Fall DACs will be given access to an Account Management Tool which will allow them to set up new accounts in their district for test administrators. At the start of the school year, DACs will receive information on creating and managing WIDA user accounts, along with documentation on what the different account types are, and what they will have access to on the WIDA web site.

In late September, MetriTech will send DACs an email with log-in information to be used for ordering ACCESS for ELLs®, Alt-ACCESS, large print, and braille test materials. If you do not receive an email from MetriTech by October 1, please contact them directly at 800-747-4868. The window to order test materials is October 1-22, 2014. DPI provides MetriTech student demographic data for creating Pre-ID labels. Only students at Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Levels 1-5 should be administered the ACCESS for ELLs®. When ordering test booklets for students, DACs should order the exact number of tests needed, as a 10% test booklet overage is automatically added to every order, and rush materials are available if necessary.

ACCESS for ELLs® Update (Continued from page 6)

Testing runs from December 1 through February 6, 2015. The testing calendar can be found at http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/assessment/ELL/calendar. OSA recommends that test administrators be re-trained on an annual basis, as the assessment changes each year.

This Fall, a limited number of professional development opportunities with WIDA will be available to districts and CESAs. A list of PD offerings can be found on the WIDA website at http://www.wida.us/professionalDev/workshops/.

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™ Update

This Summer, the U.S. Department of Education reiterated that ELL students with disabilities are expected to be assessed annually for ELP. The Alt-ACCESS for ELLs™ assessment is available for ELLs in grades 1-12 who have significant cognitive disabilities. An IEP team is responsible for deciding whether a student who is classified as ELL with a significant cognitive disability will participate in the ACCESS for ELLs® or the Alt-ACCESS for ELLs™, and if accommodations will be used. Only ELLs who meet the test participation criteria for Wisconsin's alternate assessments as outlined in form 1-7-A, Alternate Assessment Participation, are eligible to take the Alt-ACCESS for ELLs™, and this form must be included in the students' IEP.

ASSETS (Assessment Services Supporting ELs through Technology Systems) Grant

The ASSETS Consortium is nearing the end of year three of the four-year grant to develop the next generation ACCESS for ELLs® assessment. A clearer picture is now emerging of how ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 will change the way ELLs are tested, the ways assessment are tied back to the classroom, and how WIDA will change to support this.

WIDA and Project Partners completed their 2014 Field Test and began to analyze data from it. They also began analyzing post-Field Test surveys from students and test administrators to ensure that test development continues to move in a direction that will meet everyone's needs.

New information is regularly posted at http://assetsproject.org/.

Recruitment for the 2015 Field Test is now open! Your district has the opportunity to try out the 2015-16 operational test prior to it being used for Title III accountability, and will also receive free headsets, a necessary piece of equipment for the operational test. Information about field testing will be distributed soon, and can also be found at http://assetsproject.org/implementation/fieldtest.aspx.

For questions on ELL assessment, contact Audrey Lesondak at DPI at audrey.lesondak@dpi.wi.gov, or 608-267-5153.

PALS Update

Districts should be preparing for the upcoming administration of the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) for all 4-year-old kindergarten through 2nd grade students for the Fall and Spring of the 2014-15 school year. PALS was first required for 5K students during the 2012-13 school year, expanded to include 4K and 1st grade for the 2013-14 school year, and will be expanding again to include 2nd grade for the 2014-15 school year.

The fall screening window for 1st and 2nd grade students is scheduled for September 15-October 10, 2014, with a score entry deadline of October 24, 2014. The fall screening window for 4K and 5K students is scheduled for October 13-November 7, 2014, with a score entry deadline of November 21, 2014.

Training materials for teachers can be found at http://pd.casenex.com/. Teachers are required to complete the Administration and Scoring course and should be encouraged to complete the Online Score Entry and Reporting course. 4K, 5K, and 1st grade teachers who have already completed the courses last year are not required to complete them again although a review of materials is suggested.

PALS Update (Continued from page 7)

Beginning with the 2014-15 school year, DPI will be funding the cost of PALS español for districts that would like to administer PALS español instead of or in addition to the English version of PALS. This option is available for students in grades 5K through 2nd grade.

The PALS Online Score Entry and Reporting System now allows district and school level users to upload student data instead of waiting for the state upload which happens after the third Friday count. To use the Student Data Upload feature, first log in to your PALS Online account. At both the district and school level, users will see a new tab at the top of the page called "STUDENT DATA UPLOAD." Clicking on this tab will take you to a page of detailed instructions for uploading your student data file. Follow the instructions on this tab to upload student information into the system and/or assign students to correct teachers for this year.

The PALS Wisconsin Resource Center is a helpful guide for your PALS related questions and can be accessed at http://www.palswisconsin.info/. For additional questions or for information on how to obtain PALS español materials, please contact Duane Dorn at DPI at duane.dorn@dpi.wi.gov or (608) 267-1069.

WISEdash Update

WISEdash for Districts now provides results of Northwest Education Association's (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). Individual student results are available from 2005-06 through the most recently completed MAP test term for districts that have provided authorization to DPI to load their results. Multiple dashboards provide varied approaches to analyzing summary results by grade, school, or district-wide. These include growth indicators, comparisons to district-wide and statewide averages, and Standard Scores, or Z-Scores.

If your district uses MAP assessments but results are not available in WISEdash, have your District Administrator or other official return a completed data-sharing agreement to DPI by September 8 to be included in the next dashboard update in October, or anytime thereafter to be included in regularly scheduled updates.

2013-14 ACT data is also now available in WISEdash Public and WISEdash for Districts.

Accountability Report Cards Update

The preliminary School and District Report Cards were released via SAFE on August 11th. The secure release provides schools and districts with an opportunity to review their report card data and accountability ratings prior to the public release on September 16th. At that time, the report cards—as well as data download files in Excel—will be posted online at http://reportcards.dpi.wi.gov/.

- Once again two PDFs will be available: the report card summary (2 pages) and a detailed report card (18 pages).
- The data download provides all the data from the front summary page of the School and District Report Cards in Excel so that users can sort and apply filters at their discretion.
- The public release is the final release, representing final accountability reporting for 2013-14. As always, the secure versions of the report cards will remain in SAFE. The secure versions are always private - before and after the public report cards are released - because the secure versions contain unredacted data and could contain potentially identifiable student information.

> **Key Dates**
>
> Secure Release:
> August 11 (in SAFE)
>
> Public Release:
> September 16 (online)
> http://reportcards.dpi.wi.gov

OEA has updated the report card resources for this year and added some new resources. Check out the presentation using Prezi that explains the changes to the Closing Gaps priority area calculation and a one-page visual explanation of the report card.

Accountability Report Cards Update (Continued from page 8)

Looking ahead, OEA will be working with our Technical Advisory Committee to manage the transition from Fall WKCE testing to Spring Smarter Balanced and ACT testing, and the impact of this transition on the report cards. OEA will also be examining the ways in which the accountability system can incorporate robust, valid, and reliable indicators of college and career readiness.

Secure vs Public

Secure Report Cards: (in SAFE) these contain unredacted data. That is, data for less than 20 students will be displayed to aid educators in planning interventions for all students, even those in very small subgroups. All report cards in SAFE are considered secure and private. They are also considered preliminary until the release of final secure versions that accompany the public release on 9/16. Access to SAFE is restricted to educators who have been granted permission. The secure versions should **never** be shared with parents, the media, on social media, or with members of the public. They are for **educator use only**.

Public Report Cards: (online) these public report cards are freely available online and have been redacted where necessary (i.e., when group size is less than 20 students) to protect student privacy. Public report cards should be shared with parents, at school board meetings, and with members of the media. Any interested member of the community may access these report cards 24/7 online at http://reportcards.dpi.wi.gov/.

Report cards are available for the following school years: 2011-12, 2012-13, and 2013-14.

NAEP Updates

Schools selected for NAEP 2015 have been notified of their assessment dates. If the date doesn't work for the school, please contact Angela Dugas at angela.dugas@dpi.wi.gov.
Principals have been asked to identify a NAEP School Coordinator who should register for MyNAEP and begin completing NAEP pre-assessment activities.

By September 30, each school selected for NAEP should complete the Provide School Information section of MyNAEP. By October 31, schools need to submit their student list E-files. An email went out to DACs with more detailed information. Please contact Angela Dugas with any questions about NAEP in your district.

DACs To-Do List From This Issue:
- DAC Update Form by 9/12/14
- WAA-SwD Test Book Order Form
- Braille and Large Print Version Order Forms by 9/12/14
- View WKCE/WAA-SwD Pre-Test Workshop
- Update WSLS Data by 9/29/14
- DAC Confidentiality Form by 9/30/14
- Inventory and distribute all WKCE and WAA-SwD materials to Schools by 10/17/14
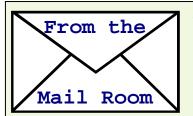- Create and Manage WIDA User Account

We hope you find this newsletter and its contents beneficial. As the Office of Educational Accountability (OEA) and Student Assessment (OSA) work to improve and refine this communication tool, we appreciate feedback and/or suggestions on the layout and content. Please contact Assessment and Accountability at: osamail@dpi.wi.gov.

From the Mail Room

"Can a school implement late or staggered starts for students on days when statewide testing is occurring in the building to keep the halls quiet and non-testing students out of the building?"

This is a district decision. However, DPI policy states that although the 180 day requirement is no longer in effect, the rule still applies to hours of instruction. A school can only count the instructional time (hours) that all students/grades are present. A school cannot count the time as instructional if only a certain grade or group of students are present.

FAQ...

Q. **When is parent/guardian opt-out allowed?**

NEW
When a parent or guardian requests that the student be excused from participating in the WSAS, this request must be honored at grades 4, 8, and 9-11, per Wis. Stats. 118.30(2)(b)3.. This request may come at any time during the testing window. All students excused by parent opt-out are marked as "not tested" students in school and district reporting determinations.

Q. **How does a parent/guardian request an opt-out for their student?**

NEW
A parent must submit a written request for student opt-out to the principal or the school board. Per Wis. Stats. 118.30(2)(b)3., if the student is in grades 4, 8, and 9-11 the request must be granted. However, if the student is not in the above mentioned grade levels, the decision to grant the request is at the discretion of the school board.

Q. **Who is responsible for testing students attending a Virtual School?** Virtual schools are responsible for testing all students enrolled in grades 4, 8, and 10. This may be done in the district, or with district staff at other arranged sites. Other districts should not test students who live in their attendance area and attend a virtual school in another district.

Q. **Is the school or district responsible for testing a home-schooled student if the parent requests that?**
No. You are neither required nor permitted to include home-schooled students in the WKCE, including those enrolled in your district for two or fewer classes per day.

Q. **Do I need to test a foreign exchange student?**
Yes. You must test all students enrolled in tested grades.

Q. **What do I need to do if a student is classified in ISES as one grade, but our district policy indicates the student is in a different grade?**
In Wisconsin, local school boards determine policy about grade level placement. Therefore, check with your district for guidance about when a student should be advanced to a new grade level, and test all students who are, according to district policy, enrolled in a tested grade. Go to ISES grade placement guidelines for more information.

Q. **Do I have to test students who participated in an assessment last year and are still enrolled in the same grade this year?**
Yes. The assessment must be administered to all students enrolled in tested grades, no matter how many times a particular student has participated in the past. Some students will take the same assessment at the same grade level for consecutive years.

Building Data Literacy…

Student Privacy and Data

As a new school year kicks off, DPI would like to provide some reminders about privacy and student records. Given the proliferation of student data—including online assessment reporting—everyone must be vigilant about protecting students' data. Educators have a wide range of access to many pieces of student data. Educators are also obligated to understand data privacy laws such as The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA - http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html) and to protect student data. DPI has compiled many educational resources that are available for school and district staff, community members, and families at: http://wise.dpi.wi.gov/wise_privacyresources.

Looking for a quick start? Begin with these resources:

- DQC Infographics
  http://dataqualitycampaign.org/find-resources/a-stoplight-for-student-data-use

- DQC Getting the Facts Straight
  http://dataqualitycampaign.org/files/Safeguarding%20Data%20-%20Getting%20Facts%20Straight.pdf

- 4 min FERPA Video
  http://familypolicy.ed.gov/

- Protecting Student Privacy in Wisconsin
  http://sspw.dpi.wi.gov/files/sspw/pdf/srconfid.pdf

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